



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2012

No. 150

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father of all, out of the noisy world, we come to this quiet place of prayer. We depend on Your goodness, Your mercy and grace.

As our lawmakers face the challenges of their calling, inspire them to have a mature faith in Your providential leading. Lord, fill them with Your spirit so that they will acknowledge their dependence on You for every breath they breathe and every creative thought they think. May today be for them a building block for making America a nation that glorifies You.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 28, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLI-

BRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 419, the DOD authorization bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the bill (S. 3254) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, the first hour will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half. We expect to begin consideration of the DOD authorization bill today.

DISABILITIES CONVENTION

On April 14, 1945, a very young Robert Dole lay gravely wounded in the mud of a war-torn Italian hillside. He had been hit with shrapnel which tore through his shoulder and his spine. But 24 years later, after years spent rebuilding his body and building a political career, the future Senate majority

leader gave his maiden speech on the Senate floor. His first floor speech here in the Senate was about the challenges faced each day—even in this the richest of nations—by people just like Robert Dole, people with disabilities. That is what he spoke about. He described the discrimination disabled Americans faced as “maybe not exclusion from the front of the bus, but perhaps from even climbing aboard it.”

Over the next 27 years of his Senate career, including 11 years as majority leader, and throughout his years in the private sector, Bob Dole would remain a vocal advocate for Americans with disabilities. Since Senator Dole fought for passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990, barriers have been lifted, helping people with disabilities in this country live the full and productive life they want and deserve.

There is no finer example of the extraordinary goals Americans can achieve in spite of their disabilities than Bob Dole’s inspiring career. In my mind’s eye, I can see Senator Dole on the Senate floor standing straight and tall, slim, and articulate—as I indicated yesterday, always with something funny to say. But what people did not notice was that one of his arms was inoperative. He always kept a pen in that hand so people would not grab his hand or something like that. But it was distinctive. That was the distinctive Robert Dole. He was such a force here in the Senate, and to think that he did it all after having been really blown up in a war.

The United States has been a leader in expanding disability rights across the globe. U.S. law has been the gold standard for the rest of the world. But the United States must continue to lead by example and must do more to protect American citizens traveling and working abroad.

The disabilities convention before the Senate today—a treaty ratified by 125 nations—would advance those goals. This convention would give us

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S6985